

# City of Socorro

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## August...

Most vacations are over and kids and adults alike are starting to think about fall and school. But there is still plenty of summer left, and things are happening in Socorro. You'll want to join in the fun or watch from the sidelines in any or all of what Socorro is offering this month.

### Chile Harvest Triathlon--August 1

Whether you are competing, volunteering, or spectating, this annual event is not to be missed! Put on by Socorro's Striders and Riders Club, this is a sprint distance (as opposed to the much longer Iron Man distance) triathlon that has become a Socorro tradition, celebrating the start of the chile harvest season and drawing athletes from as far away as Colorado, Washington and Indiana..

The race begins at 7:00 a.m. sharp with the first racer in the pool. The next participant dives in 10 seconds later and so on until everyone is on the race course whether swimming, cycling or running. When contestants sign up for the race, they estimate how long it will take them to swim 400 meters. They are seeded accordingly, with the fastest estimated time being the first in the pool. The pool is divided into 8 lanes, and the racers swim a "snake course," diving into lane number 1, swimming back in lane number 2, then swimming in lane 3 and so on.

After leaving the pool, participants hop on their bicycles in the transition area (aka the pool parking lot) and take off for a 20-kilometer ride, returning to the transition area to leave their

bikes. They run the last 5 kilometers of the race, finishing on El Camino Real near the Mormon Church.

According to race organizer Robert Gonzales, this year's 330 participants range in age from 10 years to late 60s and early 70s. Age categories begin at 14 and under, 15-17, 18-19, 20-24, 25-29—you get the picture. There also will be relay teams of 2 and 3 people: all male, all female and coed.

A race this big couldn't happen without help from the community. More than 60 volunteers will assist with registration, logistics, water stations, first aid. Local bike store Spoke'N Word will be on hand to fix flat tires and make minor repairs. The Holiday Inn Express is donating rooms for race officials, and Socorro Springs plays a major role in the awards ceremony.



Lynette Napier takes advantage of noon lap swim at the City pool to train for the race.

Both Bullock Street and El Camino Real will be blocked off near the pool. The public is urged to park at Parkview School and walk over to the race area, watching out for cyclists warming up prior to the race.

"We'd love to have as many people as can come out and yell and ring cow bells at the transition

and finish area,” said Gonzales. But be sure to come early. Last year’s winner completed the entire race in 56:10, so plan to come see the race and go out to breakfast afterwards!

### Hot August Nights, Friday, August 7

If the heat is getting you down, come to the Plaza Friday evening, August 7, to listen to some music, maybe have a beer, visit friends and neighbors. The music begins at 6:00 with Socorro’s own Freaky Styley, followed at 7:30 by Undiscovered, a variety band from Albuquerque. There will be jumping balloons for the kids, and a beer garden outside the Capitol Bar.

“We started Hot August Nights to give locals something to do and to promote the fact that we have local talent,” says Deborah Dean, City Tourism Director. “The first year we did it 4 nights in August and were rained out 2. This year if it rains, we’ve reserved the Garcia Opera House for the music.”

So, rain or shine, plan to meet your friends at Hot August Nights and catch up on the news from their summer activities.

### Socorro Toy Train Show and Swap Meet, Saturday, August 29

Another August tradition in Socorro is the Toy Train Show and Swap Meet sponsored by Socorro’s Train Gang. The Meet takes place in the Convention Center at the Best Western Motel Saturday, August 29, from 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Admission is \$1 per person or \$2 for the whole family. Toy Train Operating Society (TTOS) members are free with their membership cards.

What will you see? Trains! There will be 5 operating layouts to see and perhaps operate. If you are considering building a layout at home or already have one but you need “stuff,” there will be plenty of new and used rolling stock, engines,

scenery and models for sale. There also will be raffles and door prizes.

And if you don’t get enough of toy trains there, you can go down the street (6<sup>th</sup> street, that is) and visit the Train Gang at their open house at the Hammel Museum the same day.



Jon Spargo of the Socorro Train Gang sets up his portable model train layout at last year’s swap meet.

### School District to Offer After-School Program

The City of Socorro is ending its after-school program for Kindergarten through Middle School because the School District is offering one. Details of program activities which will include academic enrichment, remediation and physical activity will be sent home with students within the first two weeks of school.

On August 5 the City and various youth agencies will meet to develop a program for older students.

### Employee Anniversaries Mable Gonzales 20 years

#### City Council

<b>Mary Ann Chavez-Lopez</b>	<b>Gordy Hicks</b>
<b>Toby Jaramillo</b>	<b>Donald Monette</b>
<b>Michael Olguin, Jr.</b>	<b>Ernest Pargas, Jr.</b>
<b>Peter D. Romero</b>	<b>Chuck Zimmerly</b>
<b>Ravi Bhasker, Mayor</b>	
<b>Pat Salome, City Clerk</b>	